

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 DPW-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1677

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3181

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICJ (INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE), PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPLAINS WHY HIS GOVT
DROPPED REQUEST FOR INTERIM MEASURES

REFS: (A) THE HAGUE 3154 (B) ISLAMABAD 5740

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT PAKISTAN EMBASSY JULY 16, PAKISTAN ATTORNEY GENERAL YAHAMA BAKHTIAR PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REASONS BEHIND PAKISTAN'S MEASURES OF PROTECTION. KAKHTIAR SAID TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN ON POW ISSUE WOULD BEGIN IN PAKISTAN JULY 24. THEY COULD LAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR PERHAPS OCTOBER. IF THE OUTCOME IS FAVORABLE, BANGLADESH MIGHT BE INVITED TO TAKE PART. ACCORDING TO BAKHTIAR, IF BANGLADESH PARTICIPATED, THIS WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO DE FACTO RECOGNITION BY PAKISTAN.

2. PAK AG SAID INDIA WAS ONLY REPATRIATING 92,000 PAK PRISONERS (80,000 MILITARY AND 12,000 CIVILIAN DEPENDENTS) PROVIDED THAT PAKISTAN PERMITTED BENGALIS TO GO TO BANGLADESH, AND ALSO WAS PREPARED TO ABSORB NON-BENGALIS. BAKHTIAR SAID ACCORDING TO BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, THESE AMOUNTED TO 160,000 WEST PAK-
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ISTANIS, BUT PAKISTAN GOVT THINKS THIS GROUP AMOUNTS TO HUNDREDS

OF THOUSANDS, PERHAPS EVEN MILLIONS WHO HAD LEFT FOR BANGLADESH FROM INDIA AND BURMA AND WHO HAD NO TIES AT ALL TO WEST PAKISTAN. BAKHTIAR SAID PAKISTAN PREPARED TO ABSORB SOME OF THIS NUMBER BUT CERTAINLY NOT ALL. MANY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE IN BANGLADESH OR INDIA.

3. BAKHTIAR SAID PAKISTAN WAS WILLING TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH PROVIDED THE POWS WERE REPATRIATED. HE CONTENDED BOTH SIDES HAD COMMITTED WAR CRIMES, AND IT WAS UNJUST TO SINGLE OUT 195 PAK PRISONERS, ESPECIALLY WHEN PAKISTAN ITSELF HAD FORMER PRESENT AND FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF IN CUSTODY PENDING INVESTIGATION. BANGLADESH, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD ALLOWED NO INVESTIGATION INTO WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY "MULHTI BAHINI."
TANGUY

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